

16 February 1982

POLAND: More Reports of Unrest

[REDACTED]

A protest march by 3,000 people in a provincial town caught security forces unprepared. The Pope has spoken out forcefully for the rehabilitation of Solidarity, which may encourage a more determined stance by the Church. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] report that more than one-third of the workers in a factory in Lublin stopped work for 15 minutes on Friday in response to a Solidarity leaflet. About 3,000 people successfully staged a silent 30-minute march last Saturday in Swidnik, near Lublin. Police are investigating the incident. A street demonstration involving some 4,000 people took place in neighboring Tarnobrzeg Province on Monday. [REDACTED]

The disbanded Independent Student Association has reiterated its call for a student demonstration on 18 February in support of Solidarity. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The slogan "The winter is yours, but the spring is ours" is being used more frequently. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The march in Swidnik--one of the largest demonstrations to date--apparently caught local officials off guard. This march and the strike in nearby Lublin suggest the area is another center of worker militancy and will lead to a tightening of security there. The short duration of the demonstration may have prevented the authorities from reacting with force. [REDACTED]

The expectation of increasing conflicts in the spring reflects gloomy assessments by senior Church leaders and many intellectuals. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

These judgments may also contain some wishful thinking from people disappointed over the limited resistance thus far to martial law. [REDACTED]

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Church-State Relations

[REDACTED] and, according to reporting by the Western press, Vatican officials believe that the martial law authorities, rather than the union, must make concessions. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] some local parish priests are supporting "underground resistance"; [REDACTED] have privately expressed concern about the "hostile attitude" of local clergy. Despite martial law, the Vatican still has been able to ship more than 40,000 copies of the Polish-language version of the Vatican newspaper into Poland. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Pope's statements will encourage those in the Church who have argued for a tougher stance toward the government on such issues as freeing detainees and restoration of Solidarity. Conservatives in the regime probably are calling for retaliation against some Church privileges--such as distribution of the Vatican paper--as a means of getting the Church to rein in its militants. [REDACTED]

Opposition to US Policy

Danish Prime Minister Jorgensen yesterday publicly criticized US and NATO intentions to confront the Soviets at the CSCE meeting in Madrid on the Polish question and attacked US policy on El Salvador. Jorgensen noted Danish opposition to the imposition of martial law in Poland, but implied that Washington had not sufficiently considered Allied concerns before responding to the Polish situation. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] These criticisms conflict with official Danish statements at recent NATO consultations. They apparently reflect Jorgensen's growing lack of confidence in US leadership on the Polish issue. Denmark is the first Ally to break from NATO's consensus favoring strong condemnation at the CSCE session of Soviet interference in Polish affairs. [REDACTED]